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DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 036

21 February 1980

ARGENTINA

Videla To Depart for PRC Visit on 31 May	B 1
Atucha Plant To Be Out of Service for 1 Month	B 1
FRG Experts Arrive	B 1
HERALD Questions Government's Attitude on Moscow [20 Feb]	B 1
Drop of 3.7 Percent in Wheat Production Forecast	B 2
[CLARIN 15 Feb]	
Briefs: French Investment; Oil Contract	B 2

BRAZIL

Military Officers Doubt Arms Race With Argentina	D 1
[O GLOBO 14 Feb]	
O ESTADO: Country Has Little To Gain From Neutrality [15 Feb]	D 1
Physicist Says Nuclear Accord With FRG in Bad Shape	D 2
Chinese Mission Examines Aircraft Factory	D 2
Neto Expresses Desire To Be Sao Paulo Governor	D 2
Briefs: Gasoline Exports	D 2

COLOMBIA

Dispute With Ecuador Arises as Colombians Are Arrested	F 1
Turbay, Roldos To Discuss Problem	F 1
Ambassador to Cuba Explains Her Recall	F 2
Relations Cooling	F 2

VENEZUELA

Foreign Minister Views President's Mideast Tour	L 1
Zambrano Denies U.S. Role in Colombian Cattle Purchases	L 1
OAS Envoy Reports to President on El Salvador	L 1

MEXICO

Militants Release 2 More From Danish Embassy	M 1
Embassy Occupants Reduce Demands	M 1
President Advocates More Active Foreign Policy	M 2
Lopez Portillo To Visit Europe, Latin America	M 2
Communists Call for Economic Policies to Favor Workers	M 2

CENTRAL AMERICA

BELIZE

Rogers, Blumenthal To Discuss Indochina Refugee Issue	P 1
---	-----

COSTA RICA

President Explains Basis for Closing Radio Station	P 1
--	-----

Rules Tightened on Entry of Cuban Refugees	P 2
Doctors Return to Work, Receive Salary Increases	P 2

EL SALVADOR

Union Scores U.S. Plans for Military 'Intervention'	P 2
[LA PRENSA GRAFICA 19 Feb]	
Paper Foresees Rejection of U.S. Military Plan	P 3
[EL INDEPENDIENTE 18 Feb]	
Communist Leader Says U.S. Blocks Change	P 4
Revolutionary Remarks on U.S. Aid; Military's Role	P 4
BPR Militants Vacate Sewage System Building	P 4
FPL Kills Four Former Paramilitary Members	P 5
FENASTRAS Calls Nationwide Strike for 20 February	P 5
PDC Considers Withdrawing From Government	P 6
Duarte Denies PDC Withdrawal	P 7
Labor Federation Reports Rightist Coup Plans	P 7

GUATEMALA

Cancellation of Lopez Portillo Visit Denied	P 8
March Municipal Elections Postponed 1 Month	P 8
MLN Decides to Support President Lucas	P 9
[PRENSA LIBRE 9 Feb]	

HONDURAS

President To Announce Visit to U.S.	P 9
Fishermen Report Foreign Military Ships in Local Waters	P 10
Banana Workers End Strike With Agreement	P 10

NICARAGUA

U.S. Foodstuffs Imported to Help Fight Speculation	P 11
January Oil Imports Reach \$12 Million	P 11
LAES Permanent Secretary Arrives To Discuss Aid Plans	P 11
1928 Esguerra-Barcenat Treaty Declared Null	P 12
Minister Atha in Critical Condition After Heart Attack	P 12
Workers Seize Company, Demand Confiscation by Junta	P 12
Robelo Invites Masses To Join His Party	P 13

CUBA

Castro Notes Libyan Concern Over U.S. Military Presence	Q 1
Carter Speech to American Legion Assessed	Q 1
GRANMA Issues Communique on PFLP Delegation Visit	Q 2
Delegation Arrives in Managua To Sign Cooperation Pact	Q 2
Construction Agreement With Poland Signed	Q 2

CARIBBEAN

DOMINICA

Caribbean, U.S. Firms Seek Damages in Contract Dispute	S 1
--	-----

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRD Leader Refutes U.S. General's Statements	S 1
--	-----

JAMAICA

Government Studies Security Aspect of Cuban Help
[DAILY GLEANER 13 Feb]

S 1

GUYANA

Parliament Approves Socialist Constitution Bill

T 1

Burnham Defends Bill

T 1

PPP Leader Jagan Opposes UNGA President Salim's Visit

T 2

Opposition Leaders Denied Permission To Leave Country

T 2

VIDELA TO DEPART FOR PRC VISIT ON 31 MAY

PY202051 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1947 GMT 20 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 20 Feb (NA)--According to an official report issued by Government House this afternoon, President Jorge Rafael Videla will leave for the PRC on 31 May 1980.

The report states that he will return from his tour on 13 June.

ATUCHA PLANT TO BE OUT OF SERVICE FOR 1 MONTH

PY151618 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1414 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM)--The National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) reported late this afternoon that the electrical system of the Atucha nuclear plant will be disconnected for 1 month for maintenance purposes as scheduled.

Although nothing has been reported on the impact this will have on consumers of electricity, it is estimated that the supply of electricity will not be affected, since the current volume of hydroelectric energy available is adequate for normal needs.

FRG Experts Arrive

PY161236 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1955 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (NA)--A first contingent of 15 FRG experts arrived in this capital today. Beginning tonight, and for the next 4 weeks, they will perform maintenance work on the Atucha nuclear plant, which has been shut down to have its systems overhauled. The group, part of which arrived yesterday and part today, comprises only half of the team of FRG experts who will come to perform routine maintenance service after the nuclear plant is disconnected from the national energy network. The other half will arrive in successive flights from Europe, responsible sources announced.

This is the second time the Atucha nuclear plant has been shut down for general maintenance work. Since the plant went into operation in 1974, maintenance work on it has been done only in 1977, although Nuclear Plants Director Julio Cosentino said in 1979 that "experience indicates maintenance work is needed every 14 months."

HERALD QUESTIONS GOVERNMENT'S ATTITUDE ON MOSCOW

PY201915 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 20 Feb 80 p 8 PY

[Editorial: "Marxism and Moscow"]

[Text] The government is, quite rightly, strongly opposed to Marxism and would very much like to eliminate it as a political force in Argentina. But it cannot bring itself to be opposed to the Soviet Union or its Caribbean client state Cuba. Thus while it fulminates against Marxism in the abstract and as it manifests itself here in Argentina, it behaves in an ostentatiously friendly fashion towards the principal Marxist power. This, naturally enough, makes for some difficulties. When references are made to the foreign powers that aided the subversive gangs that caused so much misery and bloodshed the names of these powers are carefully omitted, thus greatly reducing the impact of the charges that are made, and, when the United States, unfortunately the only Western power currently in a position to make a stand against Soviet imperialism, tries to organize boycotts of grain shipments to the Soviet Union and the Moscow Olympics, the government leaves nobody in any doubt that it has not the slightest interest in joining.

Anger with the even deep distaste for the U.S. is easy enough to understand, but the curiously ambivalent attitude towards Soviet Marxism is not. It is quite impossible to distinguish between the Soviet Union as a country and Marxism as an ideology, because Marxism is whatever the Soviet regime happens to say it is. The Marxist terrorists, moreover, are the stormtroopers of the Soviet system whose task is to soften up Western defences by undermining Western societies and sowing discord between Western countries. As far as Argentina is concerned they have been fairly successful in both these objectives, greatly contributing to the failure of its last attempt to establish a democratic system and driving a massive wedge between it and its natural allies in the U.S. and Western Europe.

The Soviet Union, of course, has been playing a double game, surreptitiously backing the terrorist killers on the one hand while refraining from public criticism of the Argentine Government on the other. It has, however, done nothing to prevent its agents in other countries from attacking the Argentine Government, thus conveying the impression that all the attacks come from the West. Although the government must know this perfectly well, it seems to prefer to accept the phoney friendship of Russia and Cuba and has reserved its most virulent counterattacks for the United States.

The "West" is a sprawling and diverse cacophony of nations, many of which dislike one another intensely. But most of them are ruled by people who appreciate that the Soviet Union is a far greater danger to them than any Western power is. The U.S., so influential and so ubiquitous, may meddle in other Western countries' affairs but it is not consciously seeking to destroy their independence. The Soviet Union, however, is. If it were not for Soviet power and singlemindedness Marxism would be of as little danger to the Argentine way of life as militant Buddhism. But because the Soviet Union is a huge and expanding empire with a well-practiced technique for the destruction and absorption of societies still beyond its moving frontiers it is a very real threat. Anything that helps the Soviet Union also helps Marxism, and there can be little doubt that the government's current foreign policy is more welcome in Moscow than it is anywhere in the West, and no amount of rhetorical sophistry can disguise this disconcerting fact.

DROP OF 3.7 PERCENT IN WHEAT PRODUCTION FORECAST

PY160126 Buenos Aires CLARIN in Spanish 15 Feb 80 p 11 PY

[Excerpt] According to estimates by the agriculture and livestock secretariat, the 1979-80 wheat crop will yield 7.8 million tons, representing a 3.7-percent reduction with respect to the previous crop, but still standing 0.1 and 10.2 percent above the 5-year and 10-year production averages, respectively.

BRIEFS

FRENCH INVESTMENT--The national executive branch today issued Decree No. 271 authorizing foreign investments in French francs to the amount of \$160 million for the company Fichet Bouchet S.A. [Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 Feb 80 PY]

OIL CONTRACT--Buenos Aires, 15 Feb (TELAM)--The national executive branch has approved the contract signed between Government Oil Deposits (YPF) and Andina Production Company, Astra Compania Argentina de Petroleo S.A. and Compania Naviera Perez Companc S.A. for the development of oil production in the province of Chubut in the area called Manantiales, about 60 kilometers west of Comodoro Rivadavia. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1525 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY]

MILITARY OFFICERS DOUBT ARMS RACE WITH ARGENTINA

PY151457 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Feb 80 p 30 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia (O GLOBO)--On learning yesterday about the remarks made by Argentine Gen Bartolome Gallino concerning the Argentine Government's decision to modernize its military industries, including missile production, Brazilian military officers stated that Argentina only seeks to adopt a policy of producing its equipment domestically.

According to military officers who commented on Gallino's remarks, Argentina does not seek to begin an arms race or create antagonisms with Brazil.

Some military officers emphasized the fact that even when diplomatic relations between the two countries were not as good as they are now, military trade was highly favorable to both countries.

In the navy, the army, the air force and the EMFA--the Armed Forces General Staff--the opinions are that relations between Argentina and Brazil are at a very favorable level.

O ESTADO: COUNTRY HAS LITTLE TO GAIN FROM NEUTRALITY

PY160106 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 Feb 80 p 3 PY

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "We Do Not Need the Soviet Union for Exporting"]

[Text] After confirming a production forecast of 15 million tons, the Agriculture Ministry announced the availability of 1 million tons of soybeans for export and a 39.8-percent readjustment in the internal minimum price. Official circles have estimated that the country will be able to export 2 million tons of soybeans, which would bring in \$2.2 billion in revenues at current market prices. There is much uncertainty, however, as to future market developments, because the next U.S. soybean crop is expected to yield from 50 to 60 million tons, and the U.S. embargo against the Soviet Union should dump approximately 17 million tons on the market.

Other primary products, such as cocoa and especially sugar, are in a more positive market situation than soybeans. Cocoa should bring in export revenues of about \$1 billion, since prices are leveling off at high levels. As far as sugar is concerned, Brazil is losing an excellent opportunity for exceptionally high revenues in foreign exchange in the wake of a threefold price increase in recent months and crop losses of at least 2 million tons in Cuba and India, which should drive international quotations even higher. The recent liberation of stockpiles by the international sugar organization did not slow down the continuous price increase. Brazil will benefit little from the opportunity, since a large volume of its sugarcane production is committed to the national alcohol manufacturing plan, and a large portion of its quota has been exported already. After having practiced dumping against Brazil in the international market by resorting to triangular operations before, the Soviet Union is pressuring us to sell it 200,000 tons of sugar, since its main supplier, Cuba, will not be able to meet its commitments this year. It is very unlikely, however, that Brazil could increase its exports. And it would have even less sugar to export than expected today were it not for the government's wisdom in limiting to 10.7 billion liters the manufacture of alcohol by 1985, instead of the 20 billion liters proposed by some sectors.

The information presented above shows that Brazil's export prospects are satisfactory and can do without the presence of the Soviet Union in the international market as an aggressive buyer of raw materials and grains. We did not need to adopt the position of neutrality regarding the invasion of Afghanistan in order to export more cocoa, sugar or soybeans, since we are hardly in a position to take care of our traditional customers--and the Soviet Union is not one of them, since it has always chosen to buy from satellite or nonaligned countries. [paragraph continues]

In economic terms, therefore, the Brazilian Government's gesture of neutrality regarding the invasion of Afghanistan was unprofitable and risky. It was unprofitable because we will not be able to increase our exports to the socialist area, and it was risky because we depend almost totally on oil imports from Islamic countries in the Middle East, which feel threatened by the invasion of Afghanistan and by the possibility of a blockade of the Persian Gulf.

PHYSICIST SAYS NUCLEAR ACCORD WITH FRG IN BAD SHAPE

PY210109 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 20 Feb 80 PY

[Text] The Brazilian-FRG nuclear accord is in such bad shape that it does not matter what the Vienna conference will decide about the fuel cycle. This statement was made by the secretary general of the Brazilian Physics Society when he was apprised of the news that France and the FRG had decided to stop exporting sensitive technology, that is, technology for the recycling and enrichment of uranium.

This decision directly affects the FRG's nuclear agreement with Brazil. According to scientist Luis Pinguelli Rosa, the only thing the FRG cares about in the nuclear accord is selling reactors, and the fuel cycle technology is merely a prize for the number of reactors ordered. The physicist noted that whatever the attitude of the FRG may be, after the Vienna conference the nuclear accord can offer no guarantees that sensitive technology will be transferred to Brazil.

CHINESE MISSION EXAMINES AIRCRAFT FACTORY

PY210116 Porto Alegre Radio Guaiba in Portuguese 2150 GMT 20 Feb 80 PY

[Text] Sao Jose dos Campos--A special PRC mission has visited the EMBRAER [Brazilian Aeronautics Company] plant. Its members expressed interest in all the aircraft models and praised the plant's facilities. The mission, made up of 15 officials of the Beijing government, has not yet decided on the type of plane it wants to purchase from Brazil.

After visiting the hangars for an hour, the mission canceled the rest of its agenda, which included a visit to ENGESA [Specialized Engineers Corporation], where it was to have examined a line of military equipment.

NETO EXPRESSES DESIRE TO BE SAO PAULO GOVERNOR

PY152050 Paris AFP in Spanish 1531 GMT 15 Feb 80 PY

[Excerpt] Rio de Janeiro, 15 Feb (AFP)--Brazilian Planning Minister Antonio Delfim Neto admitted here last night that he wants to succeed Paulo Salim Maluff as governor of Sao Paulo.

The planning minister made this admission when asked by a newsman if he would present himself as a candidate for the Sao Paulo governorship. Delfim Neto stated that he has a "strong desire" to become the future governor of Sao Paulo.

BRIEFS

GASOLINE EXPORTS--PETROBRAS President Shigeaki Ueki revealed yesterday that Brazil exported \$500 million worth of gasoline in 1979 under the terms of agreements with foreign suppliers of crude oil. [Rio de Janeiro JORNAL DO BRASIL in Portuguese 2 Feb 80 p 17 PY]

DISPUTE ARISES WITH ECUADOR AS COLOMBIANS ARE ARRESTED

PA162128 Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Felio Plazas report]

[Text] Ipiiales--A new international dispute was addressed by President Turbay Ayala's administration as the arrest of 500 Colombian citizens by Ecuadorean authorities was denounced here. They were arrested as they entered the neighboring country looking for work.

Ecuador's authorities closed the border 30 days ago. This has had serious economic consequences in Ipiiales. Trade is almost at a standstill.

Colombian authorities have tried to settle the dispute, but Ecuador's officials do not want to, Rolando Herazo Paz, regional director of the National Transportation Institute, charged here today. Ecuador's authorities are not letting Colombian vehicles cross the border, and there is strict military surveillance.

Turbay, Roldos to Discuss Problem

PA172034 Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1730 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Oscar Dominguez report]

[Excerpt] Pasto, Colombia--The decision to define a policy putting an end to the big urban land owners' practice of maintaining unused plots of land and letting their value increase through the investments made by the state was one of the main announcements made today by President Turbay Ayala during this visit to Pasto and Ipiiales.

One of his other announcements was that women will be given greater participation in the administration during the remainder of his tenure in office. At present women are represented in the administration by the communications vice minister and the governors of Caldas, Bolivar and Choco.

Turbay also announced that he will introduce some changes in the departmental governments, but added that these changes will not be brought about as traumatically and spectacularly as some media have suggested. He explained that where there are Liberal sectional rulers he will appoint Conservatives and vice versa. However, it was understood that these changes will be made after the 9 March election.

Turbay then announced that he will resort to personal diplomacy to discuss with Ecuadorean President Jaime Roldos Aguilera the problem created by the closing of the common border, which has affected Colombian tourism and business, particularly in Ipiiales. According to the manager of Narino's regional National Transportation Institute, the border was closed 34 days ago under pressure from Ecuadorean businessmen with the approval of the Ecuadorean authorities.

President Turbay Ayala finally announced that 34 billion pesos will be invested in Narino, but he left pending a major regional goal: the construction of the Tumaco refinery. Concerning this, Turbay disclosed that he has appointed a high-level committee to study the profitability of this effort and promised to accept the committee's recommendations.

AMBASSADOR TO CUBA EXPLAINS HER RECALL

PA170128 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0016 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[By Angel Antonio Garcia Mano.]

[Text] Havana, 16 Feb (EFE)--Colombian Ambassador to Cuba Clara Nieto de Ponce de Leon today confirmed that she is being transferred out of Havana, which she labeled as "one more maneuver by Colombian political circles seeking a confrontation between the two countries." During a news conference with foreign correspondents in Cuba, the ambassador said her transfer was "unexpected" and she interprets it as part of "a campaign of harassment against Cuba by some Colombian elements which are trying to freeze relations with the Caribbean island."

My transfer, she said, is due to the adoption of a position by my country's government with respect to the public statements which I made and which "I confirm and reaffirm today since I have expressed my honest opinion of what I consider was the role played by Colombia toward Cuba." Clara Nieto said that "antagonizing Cuba shows a great lack of political foresight at a time when even U.S. President Jimmy Carter has declared that no tension exists in the Caribbean. The fact that Cuba is being attacked on the basis of statements made by a Nicaraguan fishing boat captain concerning the presence of Cubans in San Andres seems very superficial to me," she said.

Speaking about relations between Cuba and Colombia, Clara Nieto de Ponce de Leon said these have been absolutely correct and based on mutual respect at all times, but that the stand taken by some members of her government is absolutely inconsistent with the political reality of Latin America. "Antagonizing Cuba is tantamount to giving the extreme left a pretext for increasing its antisocial activities, and this policy toward Havana could have repercussions in general for Latin America," she added.

The Colombian ambassador was received this morning by Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca, who expressed an interest in the circumstances of her transfer, reliable sources told EFE. The ambassador, who has been in Havana for 2 years, has already initiated a series of official farewells at the highest level although she has said "she is not planning to leave this country immediately." She added that her transfer is clearly "a maneuver by Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas."

Relations Cooling

PA201752 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0140 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 19 Feb (LATIN)--Clara Nieto de Ponce de Leon, the Colombian ambassador in Cuba who was recently removed by the government, said today that relations between the two countries "are approaching a freezing point." In a telephone report from Havana for a local radio network, Clara Nieto de Ponce de Leon said she was dismissed because "the (Colombian) foreign minister did not like it when I expressed a personal opinion denying the report according to which Cuba is behind Nicaragua's claims over San Andres and Providencia."

The ambassador to Cuba was removed from her post last week and transferred to the Ministry of Foreign Relations in Bogota. "I am not at all interested in the post they are offering me in the ministry. I am leaving on 10 March after handing over the embassy, bidding farewell to the Cuban Government and talking to my colleagues in the diplomatic corps because I feel satisfied with the work I did in the 2 years I worked here," she concluded. [passage indistinct]

FOREIGN MINISTER VIEWS PRESIDENT'S MIDEAST TOUR

PA210004 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] In making an analysis of the president's tour through OPEC-member countries, Austria and Spain, Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano Velasco has said that Venezuela has won the right to give its opinion on international problems.

Zambrano Velasco said that on his trip, President Luis Herrera Campins laid the groundwork for personal and direct diplomacy that is indispensable in today's world. He said this is necessary to deepen the knowledge of other countries with which Venezuela shares very important interests.

Venezuela's influence is increasingly greater in international relations, and this became evident during the presidential tour, he added. Venezuelan opinion is being requested and it has its own weight abroad, the foreign minister noted. For this reason, our country cannot be isolated or detached from the problems which influence the destiny of the OPEC-member countries. Zambrano Velasco also said that achieving peace in the Middle East is in the national interest of Venezuela.

ZAMBRANO DENIES U.S. ROLE IN COLOMBIAN CATTLE PURCHASES

PA200257 Paris AFP in Spanish 2350 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Caracas, 19 Feb (AFP)--Venezuelan Foreign Minister Jose Alberto Zambrano denied here today a Washington POST report that the U.S. Government had taken action to have Venezuela purchase cattle from Colombia in an effort to boycott the USSR for its intervention in Afghanistan.

The paper said that Colombia, at the request of the United States, temporarily suspended negotiations for the sale of between 30,000 and 90,000 tons of meat to the USSR. It added that, in view of Argentina and Brazil's refusal to cooperate in the grain boycott, the U.S. Government turned to Venezuela to purchase the Colombian cattle.

President Luis Herrera Campins' government had suspended these purchases to encourage domestic production. The foreign minister said that if these purchases are resumed, it will be for internal requirements and no other reason.

OAS ENVOY REPORTS TO PRESIDENT ON EL SALVADOR

PA202351 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] President Luis Herrera Campins has received a report on the Central American situation. Hilarion Cardozo, Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS, presented the report to him. Cardozo explained to Herrera Campins what is occurring in Central America, particularly the prewar situation being experienced in El Salvador.

Cardozo met with the president at the presidential residence. At the end of the meeting, Cardozo said that the chief of state is interested in reaffirming the Venezuelan stand to avoid an increase in violence in El Salvador. El Salvador, Cardozo noted, is not a partisan, ideological or sectarian problem; it is a situation that must be solved through peaceful and democratic formulas in order to pull that country away from the horror of a civil war. He also said that President Herrera Campins has asked him to tour the English-speaking countries in the Caribbean.

MILITANTS RELEASE 2 MORE FROM DANISH EMBASSY

NC201304 Paris AFP in English 1256 GMT 20 Feb 80 NC

[Text] Copenhagen, Feb. 20 (AFP)--A further two people were today allowed to leave the Mexico City Danish Embassy, occupied by leftist militants since Monday, leaving the ambassador and six staff prisoner, the Foreign Ministry said here. The ministry said the militants, unarmed and peaceful according to Ambassador Vagn Hoelgaard yesterday, had released Danish typist Lis Hogrebe and a Mexican man. The ministry today named the remaining Danish staff as Trade Attache Roger Lehmeier, Consul Lars Krarup, Torben Rasmussen and Birgitte Ranbment. A Mexican man and woman employee of the embassy were still trapped inside, the ministry said.

Embassy Occupants Reduce Demands

PA210354 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2348 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpts] Mexico City, 20 Feb (EFE)--The occupants of the Belgian and Danish embassies here today assumed a more flexible attitude by agreeing to reduce their initial demands. However, their departure from these embassies is still uncertain as Felipe Martinez Soriano, the leader of the embassy occupants, said that the negotiations with the government had been interrupted but not severed.

During an impromptu news conference, Martinez Soriano, a former rector of Oaxaca Autonomous University who has a doctor's degree in psychology, indicated that the Popular Democratic National Front (FNDP) is now demanding the freedom of 26 political prisoners, instead of the 133 it was originally demanding. He added that in their new demands they are calling for the cessation of repression in rural zones in Hidalgo and Puebla states and the withdrawal of the soldiers stationed in those states.

Martinez Soriano said that as long as those minimum demands are not met, they will continue to occupy the two embassies "as long as necessary," although he discarded the possibility of the government serving them an ultimatum to leave the embassies. Martinez Soriano added that all the FNDP members, who have been in the diplomatic missions since last Monday, are in high spirits. However, he did admit that two of the occupants at the Belgian Embassy are ill. He said they will be replaced if necessary. In addition, Martinez Soriano criticized the raid on FNDP headquarters here by unidentified persons in which documents and equipment were stolen.

Meanwhile, Government Secretary Enrique Olivares Santana said that they are in touch with the occupants of the embassies and the Belgian and Danish diplomats. He added that there are no political prisoners in Mexico and that the government is ready to answer any call for help from the diplomats of the embassies occupied by FNDP. In the meantime, in Guadalajara, police violently evicted over 100 peasants who had invaded a cathedral in support of the embassies' occupants. The police arrested 6 persons while another 16, among them 2 women and 4 children, have disappeared. It is believed that they are in the hands of the police.

The cardinal of Guadalajara, Jose Salazar Lopez, has strongly criticized the police for their intervention at the cathedral. Cardinal Salazar termed the police action "official violence" against persons who had peacefully come to ask the church for help.

Meanwhile, the authorities claim that during the operation, they seized documents which indicated that there was a plan to occupy 19 cathedrals in the country in support of the occupants of the embassies. After the violent eviction of 15 or 26 persons, according to different versions, they went on a hunger strike at Guadalajara Square. Guadalajara is 600 km northwest of Mexico City.

PRESIDENT ADVOCATES MORE ACTIVE FOREIGN POLICY

PA182232 Guatemala City Radio Fabulosa in Spanish 1230 GMT 12 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City [no date given] [DPA]--Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo said here today that Mexico will not deviate from or abandon its international policies. Speaking to members of the Mexican Foreign Service Association [Asociacion del Servicio Exterior Mexicano] Lopez Portillo said that although these policies traditionally have been defensive, from now on they will become active.

The president said that his government has recently discovered that it needs to carry out a more active policy abroad, to create changes from abroad that we would not be able to combat from within [para tratar de causar afuera los efectos que desde adentro no podriamos combatir]. Lopez Portillo did not mention any event in particular that could have prompted Mexico's new stand, but observers pointed to the role Mexico played in Nicaragua and the growing influence that it has been acquiring in Central America and the Caribbean. Mexico's new international posture is vital, President Lopez Portillo said.

LOPEZ PORTILLO TO VISIT EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA

PA190424 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0227 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 18 Feb (EFE)--Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo during 1980 will visit France, West Germany, Sweden, Costa Rica and Brazil, the Mexican Foreign Affairs Secretariat announced today. The Secretariat said that the visit will be made in two trips and that during the first one Lopez Portillo will visit France from 6-18 May [dates as received], West Germany from 19-21 May and Sweden from 22-24 May. On his second trip, Lopez Portillo will visit Costa Rica from 25-26 July and Brazil 27-30 July. A Foreign Secretariat source said that the Mexican president may visit Canada but that no decision has been made on this.

COMMUNISTS CALL FOR ECONOMIC POLICIES TO FAVOR WORKERS

PA160215 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] During the past 3 years, salaries in Mexico have declined by 33 percent and the profits of large enterprises have increased by 71 percent, according to a declaration made by the Mexican Communist Party. Communist leaders have stated the Mexican Government must change its present economic policy to favor the working class.

BELIZE

ROGERS, BLUMENTHAL TO DISCUSS INDOCHINA REFUGEE ISSUE

FL210209 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 21 Feb 80 FL

[Excerpt] The deputy premier and minister of home affairs this morning welcomed to Belize Mr Michael Blumenthal, former United States secretary of the treasury. He came to Belize at the invitation of Premier George Price to discuss Belize's participation in a program for the resettlement of Indochinese refugees.

Mr Blumenthal is a consultant for the United Nations high commissioner for refugees in Geneva, Mr Poul Hartling. Mr Hartling had previously requested the premier to receive Mr Blumenthal.

During a meeting this morning, Mr Blumenthal said that the deputy premier spoke with him on the possibility for resettling Indochinese refugees in Belize. Mr Blumenthal outlined the methods and financing of a possible program and the development of such a program.

For his part, the deputy premier, Mr Rogers, expressed the interest of Belize, as a developing country, to help on this international effort in alleviating the plight of the refugees. Mr Blumenthal and Mr Rogers discussed the program that would benefit both Belize and the refugees. They agreed that a United Nations team of experts from the United Nations High Commission would visit Belize to develop the outline of a program. This program would have to have the approval of the government of Belize.

COSTA RICA

PRESIDENT EXPLAINS BASIS FOR CLOSING RADIO STATION

PA200254 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1740 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Jose, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE) --President Rodrigo Carazo has reiterated that freedom of expression and of the press will remain inviolate in this Central American nation.

The president explained that the closure that has been ordered, but not yet enforced, of a powerful shortwave radio station is based on legal rather than ideological motives.

The president was referring to Radionoticias del Continente, a powerful station that broadcasts to the world from Costa Rica and which has been denounced for airing programs that would allegedly promote subversion in America's southern cone.

The San Jose government, after an investigation, learned that the enterprise had failed to meet legal and technical requirements. The government then announced it would deny the station a license.

The decision has to be confirmed by the Office of the Comptroller General, and until that office issues its pronouncement the station will continue to operate unhampered.

Carazo said the Radionoticias del Continente situation will be handled on a legal basis and "never on an ideological basis."

He added that he is awaiting the decision of the Comptroller General's Office before proceeding.

TIGHTENED RULES ON ENTRY OF CUBAN REFUGEES

PA200410 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The presidential commission created a few days ago has established new guidelines for the government on the entry of Cubans freed by the Fidel Castro regime.

Costa Rica will continue to be a bridge to liberate Cubans. This policy will not be changed. Our country will continue to serve as a bridge for the departure of Cuban prisoners and their relatives. However, there will be some regulations, according to a decision made by the commission during its last meeting.

Regarding the 350 Cubans now in the country, efforts are being made to send approximately 200 of them to the United States and 70 to Mexico and Venezuela. There is also the possibility of finding work for some. For this purpose, a study is being made by the National Employment Service of the Labor Ministry. To continue to serve as a bridge for the liberation of Cubans, it has been decided not to grant entry permits to those who do not have tickets to continue traveling to, and a visa for, a third country. In addition, a surety from a citizen of Costa Rica will be necessary to guarantee that none of the refugees will become a burden on the state. In line with efforts being made with the government of Fidel Castro, a group of approximately 70 refugees, including former prisoners and their relatives, will arrive in Costa Rica in March. However, prior to that, they must comply with the new regulations, a spokesman for the commission states.

DOCTORS RETURN TO WORK, RECEIVE SALARY INCREASE

PA202159 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1729 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Jose, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Some 500 professionals from the field of medicine (doctors, bacteriologists, odontologists and others) who are working for the Health Ministry today returned to work after a 48-hour strike.

The doctors were asking for a salary increase which would put them in the same salary bracket as that of their colleagues who work for the Social Security Fund. The matter, which had been submitted to the Legislative Assembly, was immediately approved, despite partisan problems which in recent months have been hampering the assembly's activities. The strike was suspended on 19 February. The Costa Rican Government was in favor of the doctors' demands but the salary increase should not be made effective because the bill had met some obstacles in the Legislative Assembly because of political and partisan differences among the deputies.

EL SALVADOR

UNION SCORES U.S. PLANS FOR MILITARY 'INTERVENTION'

PA210128 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 19 Feb 80 p 39 PA

[Communique issued by Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation--no date given]

[Excerpt] In the past few days the media has highlighted reports on the military assistance (intervention) that the gringo imperialists are seeking to carry out in our country as part of what they cynically call a program of "military aid to the Salvadoran people" sponsored by the Pentagon and the CIA.

The program is directed primarily toward military training that Yankee mercenaries could give and to a certain extent are giving to the rightist terrorist bands. Similarly, it seeks to provide modern weapons to the fascist armed forces, to the White Warriors Union [UGB] and to the Organization for Liberation From Communism [OLC]. The basic objective of this plan is "to defeat" and kill the Salvadoran people and exterminate their honest revolutionary and democratic organizations within what they call a "counter-insurgency war," which we reduce to common terms: blood and repression to the working class.

The interventionist and adventuresome sectors of the U.S. Defense Department are afraid that, in the face of the uncontainable advance of the people who are struggling for liberation, the privileges they have held for such a long time by blood and fire will be eliminated, especially in Central America, where the Nicaraguan people, led by their vanguard, the Sandinist Front, are already building their own destiny. The possibility of U.S. intervention in our country is the order of the day, but before this can occur the oligarchy, from their luxurious hotels and mansions in Miami, in conjunction with the CIA and the Pentagon, are promoting a bloodbath through a civil war. This provocation has already begun. To this end, they are first utilizing the propaganda offensive of the phantom National Broad Front [FAN], an organization of the paramilitary groups (UGB, OLC) which--led by Chelo Medrano and Major D'Aubuisson, the "jackal" of the National Security Agency of El Salvador (ANSESAL), torturers and executioners--have taken the lives of hundreds of Salvadoran patriots.

D'Aubuisson, in his recent TV programs, like the typical paid assassin, desperately called on the armed forces to increase even more the bloody repression of the people, with the old pretext of the struggle against communism, which, by the way, no longer deceives our suffering people.

It would not be strange, therefore, if in the face of the resistance by the people and their mass organizations, which do not accept the criminal provocations that would involve them in a bloody civil war, the "gringo Marines" should make their appearance and--under a joint alliance with the oligarchy in Miami and the club of psychopathic assassins led by D'Aubuisson, Medrano and (Defense Minister) Garcia--should fiercely attack the working people.

PAPER FORESEES REJECTION OF U.S. MILITARY PLAN

PA202326 San Salvador EL INDEPENDIENTE in Spanish 18 Feb 80 p 1 PA

[Text] While Pentagon officials were trying to interest Spain and Venezuela in a military plan to be applied in El Salvador, their position was rejected by the authorities of the FRG, who were also invited to participate in the deliberations.

Hilarion Cardozo, Venezuelan ambassador to the OAS, has been a very important factor in the actions to resolve the Salvadoran crisis.

However, it was said that the military plan proposed for El Salvador would pose the risk of a gradual involvement of the United States in a situation like that of Vietnam, marking a return to the counterinsurgency methods discarded by the United States some years ago. On the other hand, official sources now believe that the Salvadoran junta will not accept the U.S. military plan, reportedly because of opposition on the part of the junta's two civilian members.

COMMUNIST LEADER SAYS U.S. BLOCKS CHANGE

PA161628 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0330 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] U.S. imperialism would rather destroy El Salvador with a bloodbath than permit the people to assume power. A leader of the Communist Party of El Salvador [PCES] has said in an interview with the French newspaper L'HUMANITE that U.S. imperialism would rather drown El Salvador in a bloodbath than accept revolutionary changes in Central America. He indicated that the oligarchy is blocking any possibility of changing the socioeconomic structures because the army belongs to it. He added that his party views development of the situation in El Salvador with optimism as well as concern.

The PCES leader denounced the participation by fascists in the state machinery. He said that there are only two alternatives: democratic and popular transformation or fascism. He added that the reformist maneuver sponsored by imperialism has failed in El Salvador. He demanded that Washington let El Salvador choose its future freely. He said there can be no revolutionary change in El Salvador without armed struggle, and noted that the problem of the revolution is not military but political.

Since May 1979 there has been a spectacular development of the popular movement in El Salvador, he said. The communist leader added that the Central American peoples want to shake off their imperialist yoke.

REVOLUTIONARY REMARKS ON U.S. AID; MILITARY'S ROLE

LD191451 Lisbon in Portuguese to Angola Mozambique and Sao Tome and Principe 1200 GMT 19 Feb 80 LD

[Text] The chairman of the Revolutionary Government of El Salvador, the MRS [as heard], Guillermo Ungo, said in Lisbon yesterday at a news conference hosted by the Socialist Party [PS] that the international situation is unfavorable for any U.S. acts of open intervention in his country. The news conference was held to report on the conclusions of a meeting between leaders of the MRS and the PS.

Ungo voiced the hope that the political situation in El Salvador will be resolved without outside interference. He was a member of the government junta that emerged from the military coup of October 1979, carried out primarily by young army officers. However, he later resigned from the junta with another civilian member in protest at the regaining of ground by the military and political right. After summing up the political and economic developments in his country since the coup, Guillermo Ungo said that the possibility should not be ruled out of the progressive military reasserting the democratic ideals of the revolution.

PS Secretary General Mario Soares stated that his party fully supports all actions in favor of the Latin American peoples' struggle for human rights.

BPR MILITANTS VACATE SEWAGE SYSTEM BUILDING

PA200450 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2156 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Militants of the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc (BPR) who had been occupying since Wednesday the installations of the aqueduct and sewage system--a Salvadoran state institution--vacated it today.

Approximately 60 executives and employees of the state institution were held hostages until the moment of the BPR militants' departure. More than 400 other hostages had been previously released.

The BPR, through its peoples committees, had been demanding a 24-hour drinking water service in the entire country.

The Salvadoran Foreign Trade Institute and the Teachers Welfare Office in this capital, still remain occupied. Approximately 80 hostages are being held in these buildings.

The BPR had previously vacated the Agricultural Livestock Development Bank, also a state institution. The militants took advantage of a demonstration to go to the two vacated institutions and leave with those who had been occupying it.

FPL KILLS FOUR FORMER PARAMILITARY MEMBERS

PA192304 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1718 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The outlawed Farabundo Marti Popular Liberation Forces [FPL] assumed responsibility today for the deaths of four persons during Monday night's occupation of a village in the provinces.

An FPL guerrilla squad killed Miguel Angel Diaz Romero, Miguel Angel Diaz Gutierrez, Jose Esteban Ortega and Freddy Ortega in the Amatitan Arriba Canton in San Esteban Catarina jurisdiction, 62 km east of San Salvador.

An FPL communique released to the press justified the deaths saying that they were members of the former paramilitary rightist organization, Nationalist Democratic Organization (ORDEN). The guerrilla squad occupied the village for about 30 minutes, and spoke to the people urging them to join the "people's uprising" which is being encouraged by terrorist extreme left groups.

FENASTRAS CALLS NATIONWIDE STRIKE FOR 20 FEBRUARY

PA200225 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2317 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) has called a nationwide strike of its affiliated labor unions for tomorrow.

FENASTRAS represents some of El Salvador's most powerful unions, including the Union of Workers of the Lempa River Hydroelectric Company (STECEL), the public firm that supplies electrical energy to the entire country.

In March, 1979, STECEL staged a strike that affected business and industry throughout the country and caused losses of several million dollars.

FENASTRAS has called the strike in protest over "government repression" of labor leaders.

STECEL said last week that it would participate in the strike, but that this would not affect the supply of electrical energy to any Salvadoran community.

PDC CONSIDERS WITHDRAWING FROM GOVERNMENT

PA201534 Paris AFP in Spanish 1132 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[By Osvaldo Tcherkaski]

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Feb (AFP)--The Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC] is examining its status in the government and its possible withdrawal from it, a top source close to the party's national directorate told this agency today.

This possibility is being discussed in terms of the current political crisis, which is causing great instability. According to reliable sources, there is dissatisfaction within the armed forces over what they view as the PDC's disorganization and ineffective administration.

According to these sources, most ranking military officers are in favor of bringing about changes, but they want them implemented within a framework of order and respect for the Constitution. The sources add that the PDC is increasing the chaos within the government by trying to reach a compromise with the left. The issue will be examined Sunday at a national party convention which, it has been announced, will be of decisive importance.

The ranking party source, who agreed to analyze the problem with this agency under the condition that his name not be disclosed, explained that the pact between the armed forces and the party, which gave rise to the present junta, is not being fulfilled.

The agreement was reached in early January on the basis of two essential issues:

1. The implementation of antioligarchic structural changes through an agrarian reform, the nationalization of banks and foreign trade and the granting of full union rights to the workers;
2. The democratization of the country by means of respect for human rights, the integration of a pluralist government and the opening of an urgent dialog with all popular organizations.

The party has presented the military commands with a document protesting the current violation of human rights and the implementation of an unacceptable [word indistinct] plan.

What set off the crisis was the violent attack on the party's headquarters in San Salvador on 12 February. On that day, the security corps stormed the party's headquarters, which members of the 28 February People's Leagues had been occupying. As a result of this operation, at least six people were killed. One cannot ask for a dialog with those one is killing, sources close to the party's leadership told this agency. Moreover, they added, the government is implementing an antisubversive warfare system which can only work under a dictatorship.

The impact of the sermon delivered Sunday by San Salvador Archbishop Oscar Arnulfo Romero was underscored by this. Among other things, the archbishop affirmed that the current junta is more repressive than the recent military regimes.

Concerning the reforms, it has been learned that the party's top leaders view with concern an alternative currently under consideration by the government, which would transform the announced nationalization of banks into a mere increase in the government's intervention.

The source consulted by this agency felt that the problem is not whether we are leaving or staying in the government.

The problem is finding a solution that can put an end to the present chaos. It has also been learned that the party regards as a serious mistake the meeting staged last Friday, through which it expected to show its power to mobilize people, but which failed when less than 1,000 people gathered in front of the presidential house.

Aside from the fact that it is a force crushed between the attacks of the right, which accuses it of favoring communism, and a left which is not in the least interested in a dialog, the armed forces' problem is that they have associated themselves with a party that vacillates between these two pressures without providing any popular support. Of the three civilians comprising the current junta, two are PDC members and the third one is an independent. Cols Adolfo Arnolfo Majano and Jaime Abdul Gutierrez are the military representatives. They led the coup that ousted Gen Carlos Humberto Romero on 15 October and were members of a first junta dissolved in January to make way for the present one in accordance with a pact signed with the PDC. The formula was approved by the United States, but the sources consulted by this agency expressed much concern over recent statements by ranking U.S. officials suggesting that military solutions are being considered to resolve the Salvadoran crisis. That in no way helps resolve this hecatomb, the sources concluded.

Duarte Denies PDC Withdrawal

PA210146 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2035 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] San Salvador, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Salvadoran Christian Democratic Party [PDC] leader Jose Napoleon Duarte denied here today that his party is considering a withdrawal from the Salvadoran Government.

The PDC established itself more firmly following the resignation on 3 January of the revolutionary government junta's pluralist cabinet.

Since the military uprising which took the present regime to power on 15 October, the PDC had participated to a lesser degree. Since the disintegration of the pluralist cabinet, the PDC has two representatives in the government junta, several ministers, deputy ministers and other officials of lesser importance.

Duarte told newsmen that his party has not considered the possibility of withdrawing and on the contrary promotes changes needed by El Salvador "despite the stubborn resistance of the extreme right and left."

LABOR FEDERATION REPORTS RIGHTIST COUP PLANS

PA202044 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1748 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Workers National Union Federation (FENASTRAS) charged here today that rightwing militarymen opposed to the present Salvadoran Government have hatched a plot to stage a coup d'etat in connivance with the Guatemalan Government and with the participation of Israeli advisers.

According to FENASTRAS, the officers planned to capture Col Adolfo Arnolfo Majano, member of the Revolutionary Government Junta, because "he continues to enjoy a following [simpatias] among many officers." Majano is regarded as the leader of the young military officers who led the coup against Gen Carlos Humberto Romero on 15 October 1979.

"We are certain. We are completely certain. The information was confirmed," Hector Recinos, member of the FENASTRAS leadership, told ACAN-EFE when questioned about the publicly raised charge today.

This is the third time in less than a week that leaders of various organizations have raised charges about alleged coup plans by the rightists.

Jose Napoleon Duarte, leader of the Salvadoran Christian Democrats, said on Friday at a rally held outside the Salvadoran presidency that "there exists evidence that a rightist coup is being engineered."

Archbishop of San Salvador Msgr Oscar Armulfo Romero also said during his weekly homily on Sunday that there was evidence of a coup "inspired by the oligarchy and directed by corrupt militarymen."

FENASTRAS maintained that "the Salvadoran fascists and oligarchs are seeking a military solution and that within this scheme, they are fostering a 'Pinochet-style' ['Pinochetazo'] coup." According to the charge, the authors of the plot have hired 700 mercenaries who are presumably being trained by Israeli advisers in Guatemala.

FENASTRAS is Salvador's most powerful labor union federation since it groups together 23 unions, including the Workers Union of the Lempira River Executive Committee [CEL] enterprise (STECCEL). The CEL is the public enterprise that supplies electricity to all of El Salvador.

The Trade Union Federation had called for a nationwide strike in the approximately 80 enterprises where its 23 affiliated unions operate. The strike could reach very serious proportions if STECEL should decide to cut the power supply throughout the country, which was the case 1 year ago when El Salvador was left without power for 23 hours. At that time, the strike represented losses worth millions of dollars.

In denouncing the alleged coup, FENASTRAS has accused "the oligarchy" of preparing for civil war. "We think there is still the possibility of a political solution. We do not want civil war," the federation says.

GUATEMALA

CANCELLATION OF LOPEZ PORTILLO VISIT DENIED

PA201450 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 1230 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Maj Rolando Archila has denied speculation contained in international news dispatches that Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo will not visit Guatemala as he had planned at President Lucas Garcia's invitation. The government spokesman said the Mexican president was invited by his Guatemalan counterpart and it is up to the guest to set the date for the visit. The dispatches do not concur with the [words indistinct] the invitation still stands and there is no reason for calling off the visit because relations with Mexico are normal.

MARCH MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS POSTPONED 1 MONTH

PA171237 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2135 GMT 16 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Guatemala City, 16 Feb (ACAN-EFE)--Only the government parties were satisfied today with the 30-day postponement of the elections in almost 300 municipalities in the interior of the country.

Walter Orlando del Valle, director of the Electoral Registry, said the postponement request was made by the government parties, that is, the Revolutionary Party and the Institutional Democratic Party.

However, according to the anticommunist National Liberation Movement [MLN] the postponement, which was not explained in detail, should not have been granted. The MLN is alleging internal financial problems, especially losses from advertising. The Christian Democrats adopted the position of "taking advantage of the delay to purge and review the whole process" for the purpose of guaranteeing the honesty of the elections. The United Revolutionary Front said that "the vice which will make fraud possible" is continuing and decided to maintain its position of not nominating candidates.

The municipal elections which had been slated for 1 March will be held to replace mayors and councilmen of the smaller municipalities of the second and fourth category. These elections, according to tradition, are considered as a "test" for the parties which have plans for the presidential general elections in 2 years.

MLN DECIDES TO SUPPORT PRESIDENT LUCAS

PA171601 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 9 Feb 80 p 4 PA

[Excerpt] The National Liberation Movement (MLN) party will give all its support to Guatemalan President Gen Fernando Romeo Lucas at this time but it will remain in the opposition said MLN Deputy Jorge Torres Ocampo, leader of the MLN bloc.

He added that this decision was made during the recent meeting of the MLN national leadership which analyzed the violent situation in the country. Torres Ocampo said the MLN also discussed the agreements which will be made with President Lucas Garcia regarding the replacement of Vice President Francisco Villagran Kramer when he submits his resignation. He said the MLN decided not to ask for administrative posts in exchange for the support they are giving to the president because what the party is really interested in is maintaining the country's institutions.

He said the MLN is not interested in reaching agreements with the broad front because it has failed politically and has contributed to the administrative deterioration of the country.

Deputy Amilcar Gudiel, a member of the MLN bloc, denied that 5,000 volunteers are being trained in Guatemala to fight against the left in El Salvador and Nicaragua. We respect the self-determination of people, he said. The citizens of those countries are the ones who will have to solve their problems, he added. The Guatemalan Army has enough to do with its own activities and problems than to think about such childishness, he said.

HONDURAS

PRESIDENT TO ANNOUNCE VISIT TO U.S.

PA202005 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The president of the Honduran military junta, Gen Policarpo Paz Garcia, will announce on 24 February that he will make a trip to the United States. The Honduran chief of state will be accompanied by several members of his Economy Ministry, U.S. Ambassador to Honduras Mari-Luci Jaramillo and official reporters who customarily cover the Government House.

Paz Garcia's trip will begin in New York where he will attend an invitation of the Council of the Americas, which includes executives of the most important enterprises of the United States.

FISHERMEN REPORT FOREIGN MILITARY SHIPS IN LOCAL WATERS

PA191747 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1644 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Tegucigalpa, 19 Feb (ACAN-EFE) --The residents of Bay Islands, located in Honduras' Caribbean territorial waters, have told the local newspaper LA TRIBUNA about the presence of foreign ships there.

According to them, the ships in question might be Colombian frigates patrolling outside their jurisdiction. They said they are afraid to go fishing for shrimp due to the presence of these frigates, which do not act very friendly and might attack them. They believe the frigates might be Colombian because of the territorial conflict between that nation and Nicaragua.

Nicaragua is claiming 200 miles of territorial waters that include several Colombian islands and cays.

Colombia has dispatched naval, air and infantry forces to its possessions in the Caribbean and there have already been confusing incidents involving a number of Honduran boats that have been mistaken for Nicaraguans and several boats sailing under the Nicaraguan flag that have been captured.

Bay Islands residents have complained about the lack of protection in the area and have asked the Honduran Navy to preserve the integrity and territorial sovereignty of Honduran territorial waters.

BANANA WORKERS END STRIKE WITH AGREEMENT

PA201735 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1453 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] La Ceiba, Honduras, 20 Feb (ACAN-EFE) --The 6,500 workers of the American-owned Standard Fruit Company who had been on strike since last Thursday returned to work Wednesday in the northern coast of Honduras.

The strike ended when all the demands which the union made were granted to the workers. The strike resulted in heavy losses, because the bananas were ruined. Some plantations will have to start over again and the company will have to pay the ships which waited for the cargo.

The union had broken off negotiations in view of the negative attitude of the company, but they were resumed and concluded last night as a result of the mediation of the military government, conducted by Col Jose A. Rosa Bueso and Labor Minister Adalberto Discua.

The agreement that was signed specifies that a worker who dislocated his spinal column in a work accident will be sent to the United States. In addition, the workers were granted a collective bargaining contract on work conditions, the dismissal of the director of the D'Antoni Hospital run by the company, no reprisals, and 100 percent payment of their salaries during the strike.

NICARAGUA

U.S. FOODSTUFFS IMPORTED TO HELP FIGHT SPECULATION

PA201845 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Excerpt] Seven thousand five hundred tons of rice, 2,000 tons of beans and 100,000 gallons of vegetable oil are expected to arrive in the next few days from the United States. According to Companero Pedro Antonio Blandon, these basic grain purchases are being made in order to put an end to speculation.

JANUARY OIL IMPORTS REACH \$12 MILLION

PA192206 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Jose Marquez, Nicaraguan Central Bank Exchange Control director, has reported that Nicaragua imported \$12 million worth of crude oil in January. This means that the cost of imports will rise following the gasoline price hike. He said staple imports totaled \$46 million in January, \$26 million of which were shipped and \$20 million negotiated.

LAES PERMANENT SECRETARY ARRIVES TO DISCUSS AID PLANS

PA151700 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0300 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Carlos Alzamora, permanent secretary of the Latin American Economic System [LAES], arrived in this capital today to attend the first work session of the Action Committee for the Reconstruction of Nicaragua in which 17 countries are participating.

The meeting will open tomorrow at the Intercontinental Hotel with the participation of members of the Junta of the Government of National Reconstruction and members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front Joint National Directorate.

The LAES Action Committee for the Reconstruction of Nicaragua includes Cuba, Colombia, Costa Rica, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Venezuela and logically, Nicaragua. Most of these countries have sent official representatives and it is expected that the rest of the persons attending this work session will be arriving within the next few hours. LAES committees have visited the different Spanish-American countries to obtain aid that will help this Central American nation recover from a civil war that left it in economic difficulties.

Alzamora arrived in Nicaragua after a 3-day visit to Mexico which concluded with a meeting with President Lopez Portillo. Prior to that he held meetings with Foreign Relations Secretary Jorge Castaneda and Finance and Public Credit Secretary David Ibarra, with whom he examined the mechanisms for regional cooperation currently being planned by LAES. These mechanisms include the program for energy cooperation and the first Latin American financial meeting. The visit of the LAES' permanent secretary to Mexico was covered by the international agencies and local media. Alzamora, who is of Peruvian nationality, tonight told the ACAN-EFE news agency that he was deeply satisfied with the Mexican president's reiteration of the valuable support Mexico will give LAES and the cause this organization promotes for the benefit and development of Latin America.

1928 ESGUERRA-BARCENAS TREATY DECLARED NULL

PA191829 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0314 GMT 19 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Bogota, 18 Feb (EFE)--Nicaragua tonight stated that it is declaring null "that shameful treaty" in which the United States forced "a puppet government" to yield a portion of its territory to Colombia in 1928.

The new Nicaraguan Government has claimed sovereignty over San Andres and Providencia Islands and the Quitasueno, Roncador and Serrana Cays in the Caribbean, which Colombia now controls.

Colombia on its part claims total sovereignty over those territories and through its Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas has termed Nicaragua's claim a "joke."

In an interview with the television news program Cinevision, Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto Brockman affirmed that "this cannot be a treaty since it lacks all the prerequisites which make an agreement." "That is," added the Nicaraguan foreign minister, "there was no full consent and in addition, there existed errors and insurmountable faults in the agreement signed in 1928, which was known as Esguerra-Barcenas."

He explained that in his government's opinion, the treaty is void "because Nicaragua was occupied at the time, and because it was the occupation force which demanded that Nicaragua yield a portion of its territory. The United States was in some measure compensating Colombia for American intervention in the process of Panamanian independence," D'Escoto added.

MINISTER ATHA IN CRITICAL CONDITION AFTER HEART ATTACK

PA211326 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Here is a last-minute report for our listeners:

We have called up the eastern Hospital, the Manolo Morales Hospital, to inquire about the health of Companero Paul Atha Ramirez, [minister of domestic trade], who yesterday morning suffered a heart attack. He is in critical condition in the intensive care unit of the cardiovascular section of this hospital. We have been told this morning that his condition is critical and that his doctors are standing by for any situation that may arise.

WORKERS SEIZE COMPANY, DEMAND CONFISCATION BY JUNTA

PA202254 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] According to Sandinist Workers Central (CST) Secretary General Dennis Melendez, the Caracol factory workers seized the company's facilities yesterday afternoon to protest a Labor Ministry decision favorable to the owner. The factory is owned by Constantino Campos, whom the workers accuse of mismanaging the company.

The workers want the National Reconstruction Government Junta to take over the company, conduct a thorough investigation and turn the company over to the workers.

This is the second time that the Caracol factory has been seized by its workers this year. The first time the conflict was resolved in favor of the workers.

The CST leader and several Labor Ministry representatives showed up at the company this morning to see how the conflict might be resolved.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the company's union sent a letter to Interior Minister Commander Tomas Borge Martinez, informing him of a number of irregularities at the factory.

ROBELO INVITES MASSES TO JOIN HIS PARTY

PA151723 Paris AFP in Spanish 0416 GMT 15 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Managua, 14 Feb (AFP)--Government junta member Alfonso Robelo today invited the the popular masses to join his party, the Nicaraguan Democratic Movement (MDN), and indicated that "the Sandinist revolution has only one owner and that is the Nicaraguan people."

Speaking to some 5,000 people in the town of San Juan del Rio Coco, 350 km north of Managua, Robelo opened his own political campaign, expressing support for a pluralist revolution and [few words indistinct] that "the Nicaraguan people want socialism with freedom."

Robelo offered his party--which was organized by businessmen and professionals before the Sandinist insurrection--to the Nicaraguan masses as one more political alternative within their revolutionary process. Robelo once again explained that the MDN is part of the Sandinist revolution and carries the Nicaraguan flag. He indicated that it supports all the social achievements which are being implemented that benefit the masses.

Robelo, a wealthy owner of cotton plantations and cooking oil processing plants, is considered the "bourgeois" part of the government junta. However, he has supported all the decrees and decisions which seek economic redistribution for the popular masses and an egalitarian political system for Nicaragua.

Personally Robelo says he admires the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) but he is not a member of the organization.

Robelo's speech was followed with special interest by some local political circles. They noted the significance of his statements on aspects of the revolution and the country's political future which worry them.

"If you have any complaint, make it known and if you want to belong to a political organization you have the right to do so because we live in a free Nicaragua," Robelo said. Robelo also advised the Nicaraguans "not to permit pressures to change their minds because all the pressures, tricks and traps used by Somozism must be eliminated."

Robelo also expressed support for freedom of worship and expression and other rights which some Nicaraguans are afraid they will lose if political pluralism is sacrificed in the course of the Sandinist revolution.

CASTRO NOTES LIBYAN CONCERN OVER U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE

PA210340 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0139 GMT 21 Feb 80 PA

[Text] United Nations, 20 Feb (LATIN-REUTER) Cuban President Fidel Castro informed the nonaligned country delegates here today that the Libyan Government considers its country threatened by the mobilization of the United States and other "imperialist forces."

In a letter which circulated here today during a meeting of the nonaligned group, of which Cuba is president, he said that Libyan leader Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhafi had informed him of his concern over what he called the mobilization of imperialist military and colonialist country forces near the Libyan borders.

"Colonel al-Qadhafi said that the deployment of forces through the granting of military bases to the United States by neighboring countries, and the deployment of air and naval forces of colonialist countries in the region, tend to eliminate revolutionary forces in that part of the world." He said these actions "corner the petroleum-producing regions and establish reactionary regimes that will establish alliances to serve the interests of imperialism and colonialism."

Castro added that the Libyan leader had asked him to inform the nonaligned movement countries of the situation.

"Colonel al-Qadhafi charges in his message that a global campaign of threats exists on the part of U.S. imperialism and colonialist countries to try to justify their intervention in the nonaligned countries and in small countries," the Cuban president added in his note.

The observers who attended the meeting said that the representatives present did not discuss the contents of the Cuban note.

CARTER SPEECH TO AMERICAN LEGION ASSESSED

FL201127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 20 Feb 80 FL

[Text] U.S. President James Carter Tuesday reiterated that the United States considers the region of the Persian Gulf to be of vital interest to the United States and will even use arms to defend it if it is threatened. In a speech before members of the American Legion in Washington, the President repeated previous statements aimed at intensifying tensions in international relations.

He added that the United States has prepared new plans of military assistance and security for its allies and proteges to confront what he considers to be a threat to U.S. security, and defended the high defense budget for 1981. Carter declared that his administration will persist in its attempted boycott of the Olympic games in the Soviet Union and said that, in that sense, the U.S. people should also make sacrifices, referring to U.S. athletes who supposedly will be deprived of participating in the world sports meet.

The U.S. President also reiterated his decision to eliminate the current legislation limiting the activities of the CIA and other U.S. espionage organizations, both inside the country and abroad.

GRANMA ISSUES COMMUNIQUE ON PFLP DELEGATION VISIT

PA202249 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 20 Feb 80 PA

[Text] The Cuban daily GRANMA has published a communique on the occasion of the visit to our country of a delegation of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP] headed by its secretary general, Georges Habash, that was received by Raul Castro, second secretary of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and other high-ranking leaders of that political organization.

During the talks, both parties rejected the so-called autonomy plan and denounced the aggressive actions of imperialists, Zionists and reactionaries in Lebanon aimed at annihilating Palestinian resistance and the national Lebanese movement.

They also condemned the present imperialist maneuvers in the Middle East and its aggressive posture in the Arabian Gulf as well as the capitulating agreements of Camp David, the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty and the treacherous policy of the Anwar as-Sadat regime.

The PCC reiterated to the PFLP delegation its solidarity with the just struggle of this nation for self-determination and the creation of an independent national state.

DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MANAGUA TO SIGN COOPERATION PACT

FI202301 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 20 Feb 80 FI

[Text] Managua-Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation, has arrived in Nicaragua at the head of a Cuban delegation. The delegation will hold talks with Nicaraguan officials for the signing of a cooperation agreement between the two Latin American nations.

Cmdrs Henry Ruiz, minister of planning of Nicaragua, and Bayardo Arce, both members of the National Directorate of the Sandinist National Liberation Front, welcomed the Cuban delegation at Managua's airport. Others present include Nicaraguan Transportation Minister Dionisio Marengo and deputy ministers and officials of agricultural-livestock development, health and education.

In addition to Rodriguez Llompart, the Cuban delegation is composed of Ernesto Melendez, vice president of the State Committee for Economic Cooperation; Julian Lopez, Cuban ambassador to Nicaragua; (Hector Aranagiles), director of the enterprise Cubatecnica; and representatives of the Cuban ministries of transportation and public health.

CONSTRUCTION AGREEMENT WITH POLAND SIGNED

FI191159 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1100 GMT 19 Feb 80 FI

[Text] (Wladyslaw Galgan), first deputy director for scientific research work of Poland's Institute for the Mechanization of Construction Work, and Jose Maria Rodriguez, director of machinery and equipment of the State Committee for Construction, signed a cooperation agreement here this Monday. During the talks held with the Polish delegation, the Cuban representatives explained Cuba's need for the development of the mechanization of construction work and its future as well as the development of the construction of housing in our country. The two sides also examined the state of cooperation in the field of mechanization, which can be seen in several projects, some ongoing and others completed.

DOMINICA

CARIBBEAN, U.S. FIRMS SEEK DAMAGES IN CONTRACT DISPUTE

FL152130 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 15 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The attorney general of Dominica, Eustace Francis, today said that seven Caribbean corporations and U.S. firms had filed a writ in the U.S. Supreme Court seeking compensation from the Dominican administration for the government's cancellation of its contract to establish a free zone north of the capital of Roseau. The government under the then-Prime Minister Patrick John cancelled the contract following public pressure against giving the corporations 45 square miles of land for the venture. The level of compensation that is being sought by the corporations was not disclosed. Proceedings are under way in the high court for a declaration that the Free Port Agreement was void and unconstitutional from the very beginning.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

PRD LEADER REFUTES U.S. GENERAL'S STATEMENTS

PA171832 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0118 GMT 17 Feb 80 PA

[Text] Santo Domingo, 16 Feb (EFE)--The secretary general of the ruling Dominican Revolutionary Party (PRD) has said that U.S. Maj Gen Robert Schweitzer's statements regarding an alleged communist threat in the country "are unacceptable and insolent."

PRD Secretary General Jose Pena Gomez said that contrary to what the U.S. envoy stated, the Dominican Republic is one of the most peaceful countries in the world. Pena Gomez said that while in other countries kidnappings, armed holdups and terrorist attacks are a daily occurrence, in the Dominican Republic these do not take place even occasionally. "Of course there are communists in the country but none of them carry out kidnappings or attacks, explode bombs or organize guerrillas," the PRD leader added.

According to Pena Gomez, the Dominican communists are behaving maturely to the communists of many other countries because they have accepted the constitutional processes. Therefore, the visit of General Schweitzer and his "unfortunate remarks" led many gullible people to believe that he was expressing the U.S. Government's position. [sentence as received]

Schweitzer said he was coming to the country to speak frankly and that in view of the advance of communism in the Caribbean and Central America his government is willing to help the friendly countries as much as possible.

JAMAICA

GOVERNMENT STUDIES SECURITY ASPECT OF CUBAN HELP

FL181100 Kingston DAILY GLEANER in English 13 Feb 80 p 13 FL

[Excerpts] The Ministry of National Security is now studying the implications for national security if Cubans are allowed to operate spray planes over Jamaican terrain.

This has been disclosed by the managing director of the Banana Company of Jamaica, Mr. Anthony Capleton, in a statement which also said that the Cubans would not be taking over the entire banana spraying operation here but would only be assisting to upgrade the present programme.

Mr. Capleton also denied that some 70 Jamaicans stood to lose their jobs if the Cubans were used to spray Jamaican bananas.

Mr. Capleton said:

"I note the statement attributed to a spokesman for crop culture limited in a front-page article in the DAILY GLEANER of Wednesday, January 23. This statement relates to the proposal to employ Cuban aircraft and personnel to assist crop culture limited in carrying out banana spraying operations aimed at the control of leafspot disease.

"Since its incorporation, the banana company has done everything possible to assist crop culture with the acquisition of licences through the trade administrator's department and foreign-exchange through the Bank of Jamaica.

"Our assistance has extended to procuring-- A) licence for renting additional aircraft; B) licence for purchasing of spare parts; C) repair and maintenance of airstrips; D) repair to roads leading to airstrips; E) assistance to transfer fees overseas.

"Crop culture, in fairness, had their own setbacks due to bad weather conditions and the loss of one of their pilots and two aircraft.

"The banana company contacted the Jamaica Defence Force and the Windward Islands Banana Industry (WINEBAN), but both were unable to help. We therefore asked the National Planning Agency to inquire of the Cubans whether they could help, as they had offered their services in 1976.

"Representatives of the banana company have since met with the Cubans and have seen slides of their crop spraying activities in Cuba. The Cubans made a tour of western Jamaica examining the area and observing spraying operations.

"They were satisfied that they had the facilities to assist us, and this assessment was supported by our officers. The Cubans have made a very competitive offer which, if accepted, would result in a proportionate reduction of cost. We are presently examining the Cuban offer. It has been proposed that a one-month trial programme of spraying covering 14,000 acres in St. James should be undertaken and evaluated before any firm arrangements be considered. We are consulting with the Ministry of National Security on the question of foreign nationals operating over our terrain.

"The statement that 70 Jamaican workers were likely to lose their jobs if the Cubans were to assist in the spraying programme is totally unfounded, as the Jamaican workers mentioned comprise a mobile spraying unit which employs 30 persons and the airstrip which employs another 40.

"The Cuban assistance will in no way affect these workers as the Cubans need only two pilots and two engineers to maintain their aircraft whilst in Jamaica, a total of four persons.

"The question of the nature and suitability of the Cuban aircraft was also taken into consideration. The Cuban spray planes are two-seaters. They are of 1,200 hp, exactly the same size as those used by crop culture in the present programme. Finally, it should be noted that any help that the Cubans are able to give would be only to upgrade the present programme so that we can adequately control our wide-spread and very damaging leaf spot problem. It was never intended that crop culture would have to lose their spraying franchise."

PARLIAMENT APPROVES SOCIALIST CONSTITUTION BILL

FL202050 Port of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 15 Feb 80 p 1 FL

[Text] Georgetown, Thurs: The Guyana parliament tonight passed the enabling parliamentary bill for the introduction of a new socialist Constitution for the country.

Approval came after two days of debate with the main opposition party, the People's Progressive Party (PPP) taking part in debate but not voting on the bill which it has strongly opposed.

The ruling People's National Congress (PNC) however has the required two-thirds parliamentary majority which enabled passage of the bill.

The bill is to go before President Arthur Chung for his assent, after which it will become law.

The new Constitution proposes that there should be an executive president to replace the current titular head of state, and transitional arrangements allow for Prime Minister Forbes Burnham to assume the post of executive president temporarily pending general elections.

Elections, postponed twice since they were due in July 1978 to facilitate the drafting of the new Constitution, must be called not later than this October.

The new Constitution provides also for the addition of 12 seats to the 53-seat parliament as well as for radical local government reform.

It has been bitterly criticised by all opposition parties and some social groups who claimed its drafting was merely a gimmick to buy time for the ruling party, while the PNC insisted that the existing Constitution, handed down at independence was no longer suitable to the leftwing thrust of the country. (CANA)

Burnham Defends Bill

FL202055 Port of Spain TRINIDAD GUARDIAN in English 16 Feb 80 p 2 FL

[Excerpts] Georgetown, Thurs: Guyana's Prime Minister Forbes Burnham yesterday stoutly defended a draft new socialist constitution which was approved in parliament here last night.

Responding to heavy fire directed by the main opposition spokesmen to the powers to be vested in an executive president under the new constitution, Mr. Burnham declared that powers must lie somewhere.

He declared further that most of the powers being suggested for the first executive president (who will replace the current titular head of state) were no more than those already enjoyed by the prime minister.

He added that it was the pattern in the world for executive presidents to be exempt from civil and criminal proceedings.

Mr. Burnham is expected to become executive president when the new constitution comes into effect, and the range of powers proposed for the post has been under severe attack by the opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP).

Mr. Burnham's defence of the draft prepared by a constituent assembly came as he wound up the debate, after which the House moved into committee discussion of the document.

As the ruling People's National Congress (PNC), the PPP and the small United Force (UF) debated in parliament, the militant Working People's Alliance (WPA) entered the political disputations with a sustained criticism of the draft Constitution.

For the second day running, the alliance hit at the draft and the provisions it contains as well as the controversial constitutional referendum of July 1978 which paved the way for its drafting.

The alliance reiterated also its call for the ruling party to step down from power "as no one party can solve the crisis."

The alliance again threw doubt on whether it would take part in general elections expected after the promulgation of the new Constitution later this year.

The alliance also announced that it has written Secretary General Dr. Kurleigh King of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Secretariat here asking that he study "this process" by which, it alleged, the ruling PNC was "legalising and extending its dictatorship."

Mr. Burnham accused his main opponents in the PPP of putting forward "a desert of irrelevancies," and stated once again his party's willingness to have dialogue with the PPP but not while the PPP was attacking it as being fascist.

PPP LEADER JAGAN OPPOSES UNGA PRESIDENT SALIM'S VISIT

FL192202 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 19 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The Government of Guyana has dismissed certain protests by the opposition People's Progressive Party [PPP] concerning the imminent visit to that country of the president of the UN General Assembly. The president of the UN General Assembly, Tanzanian Salim Abdul Salim, is scheduled to arrive in Guyana tomorrow for the country's tenth republic anniversary celebrations and talks with Prime Minister Forbes Burnham.

However, PPP leader Cheddi Jagan yesterday called UN Secretary General Kurt Waldheim (?to cancel) Mr Salim's visit on the grounds that it would give dignity to a regime which was totally without popular support. But, in responding to the opposition criticism, a government official said that the PPP outburst simply reflected its ignorance of the basic elements in international matters.

OPPOSITION LEADERS DENIED PERMISSION TO LEAVE COUNTRY

FL192153 Kingston Domestic Service in English 2030 GMT 19 Feb 80 FL

[Text] The director of public prosecution [DPR] in Guyana has turned down an application by three top opposition members charged with arson for permission to leave that country.

Dr Walter Rodney, Dr Rupert Roopnaraine, and Dr Omawale, all members of the Working Peoples Alliance, last week asked DPP (Emmanuel Ramalho) to permit them to attend next month's first anniversary celebrations of the people's revolutionary government in Grenada. But today the counsel for the three men said he had been informed by telephone that the DPP would not agree to permit the men to leave the country. The lawyer added, however, that he was considering approaching the courts in Guyana to get permission for the men to go to the Grenada celebration.

Rodney, Omawale, and Roopnaraine are jointly accused of burning down the headquarters of the ruling People's National Congress last year.